Globalization is a pervasive feature of contemporary social life. McDonald’s is just the tip of the iceberg. A world economy, world polity, and world culture all now exist and are rapidly expanding. In this course, we will consider globalization’s aspects and impacts, in hopes of developing some understandings of its causes, effects, and implications for your own life.

The readings for the course are contained in a single edited volume, available at the Bookstore or from a variety of online sources. The book is:


Course grades will be allocated as follows:

(1) Discussion Section Participation – 1/6 of course grade. We hold discussion sections during the weeks of 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, and 11/18.

(2) Four Reading Responses – 1/6 of course grade. In any four of the six weeks we hold discussion sections, you must submit a one-page reading response, drawing connections between one of the unit’s readings and one of the unit’s lecture themes. To receive credit, you must personally hand a hard copy of your response to your TA at the start of your discussion section. We can not accept e-mailed responses; we cannot grant extensions. Responses must be double-spaced and printed in 12-point type.

(3) Two Mini Essays – 1/3 of course grade. After any two of the three main units (II, III, and IV below), you must write a two-page essay, drawing connections between one of the unit’s lecture themes and your own life. Questions and due dates appear below. To receive credit, you must personally hand a hard copy of your essay to your TA at the start of lecture on the due date. We can not accept e-mailed essays. Late essays may be accepted at your TA’s discretion, but they will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for every day they are late. Essays must be double-spaced and printed in 12-point type.

(4) Final – 1/3 of course grade. At the end of the quarter, you will take an in-class, open-note (but not open-book) exam, drawing on our cumulative work. The exam will contain approximately 12 short-answer questions – 8 from lectures and 4 from readings.

Students taking the course pass/fail must complete every assignment and must earn a course grade of B- or higher to receive a passing grade.

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NOTE TO SOCIOLOGY MAJORS: This course counts toward the certificate in Global & International Sociology.
9/30  Why Globalization Matters
10/2  Our Approach, Starting with Immigration
10/4  Immigrant and Human Identities

**Unit II. Economic Globalization**  Readings: Lechner and Boli 148-214

10/7  Introduction to Economic Globalization
10/9  Global Capitalism
10/11 Organizational and Country: Transnational Corporations and the Development State
10/14 Personal: Owners/Laborers, Producers/Consumers
10/16 Evaluation: Exploitation or Opportunity
10/18 Application: AIDS through the Prism of Economic Globalization

*Essay 1:* Describe one aspect of economic globalization and consider its impact on your own life. Due 10/21 in class.

**Unit III. Political Globalization**  Readings: Lechner and Boli 215-89

10/21 Introduction to Political Globalization
10/23 Global: Stateless Democracy
10/25 Organizational and Country: IGOs, INGOs, and the Nation-State
10/28 Personal: From Citizen Rights to Human Rights
10/30 Evaluation: Domination or Cooperation
11/1-6 Application: Movie “Hotel Rwanda” through the Prism of Political Globalization

*Essay 2:* Describe one aspect of political globalization and consider its impact on your own life. Due 11/8 in class.

**Unit IV. Cultural Globalization**  Readings: Lechner and Boli 290-371

11/8  Introduction to Cultural Globalization
11/13 Global Modernity
11/15 Organizational and Country: Schools and Universities, Progress and Justice
11/18 Personal: From Embedded Locals to Individual Cosmopolitans
11/20 Evaluation: Homogeneity or Heterogeneity
11/22 Application: Female Genital Cutting through the Prism of Cultural Globalization

*Essay 3:* Describe one aspect of cultural globalization and consider its impact on your own life. Due 11/25 in class.

**Unit V. Concluding Thoughts**  Readings: Lechner and Boli 426-93

11/25 Putting It Together – Concurrence or Conflict
12/2 Application – Criminal Regulation of Sexual Activity
12/4 The Future of Globalization
12/6 Terrorism

FINAL EXAM 12/9 @ 4-6